

Stray Dog and Microchipping information for dog owners



As a dog owner it is your responsibility to prevent your dog from straying, and there are several ways that you can do this:

Make sure that your dog is well contained at home

Your garden fence should have no gaps in it and must be tall enough to prevent your dog from jumping over it. If your dog is prone to digging under the garden fence, then attach a strip of chicken wire to the bottom of the fence and bury it.

If you have a gate, it should be self-latching so it cannot be left open accidentally. If you cannot securely fence your garden, then you could keep your dog in a pen. This must be big enough for the size of your dog and should be built in a quiet, sheltered area, away from a neighbour's fence or a busy footpath.

Walking your dog

When exercising your dog in a public place, ensure it is supervised by a responsible person that is able to control the dog at all times. Keep your dog on a lead if it is nervous of traffic, people or other dogs. Make sure that it has a correctly fitting collar and lead.

Identification

The Control of Dogs Order (1992) requires every dog to wear a collar with the name and address of its owner attached to it whilst out on a public highway.

Owners of dogs without identification can be fined £5000.

Having the correct identification means that should your dog stray, he can be returned to you quickly, minimizing the chances of him being hurt.

If we catch a stray dog, and we can't trace the owner, we will keep it in boarding kennels at your expense. If you do not collect your dog within seven days, you will lose the right to reclaim it, and we will try to re-home it. If your dog is collected you will be charged £25 plus any kennel costs before it is returned. As it is an offence to allow a dog to stray, owners of persistently straying dogs may be prosecuted.

Microchipping

Microchipping your dog provides an additional means of identifying it, which is particularly useful if your dog does not have, or has lost, its collar and tag.

Most councils, vet surgeries and rescue centres have microchip scanners, so if your dog has been microchipped it can be traced to you.

Locally, there are several places that you can have your dog microchipped for a small fee, including:

Avenues

Veterinary Clinic

22 Garston
Lane
01923 894274

Medivet

237 St Albans
Rd
01923 243429

Park Veterinary Centre

256 Cassiobury
Drive
01923 223321

Park Veterinary Clinic

9 Katherine
Place, Abbots
Langley
01923 681261

Neutering

Neutering helps reduce the number of unwanted puppies. Operations are usually straightforward and dogs usually recover quickly.

Environmental Services,
Watford Borough Council,
Town Hall, Watford,
WD17 3EX

01923 278503

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